

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 20 as follows:

--A small block deinterleaver 138 deinterleaves the robust VSB data. The small block deinterleaver 138 has a relatively low delay time. This deinterleaving disperses possible burst errors in the robust VSB data at the output of the soft output twelve way $2/3$ rate inner decoder 132. The normally ordered robust VSB data is bitwise decoded by an outer decoder 140 which also packs the robust VSB data into bytes. The ~~amp~~ map information telling the outer decoder 140 what decoding rate to use on what data is provided to the outer decoder 140 at an R_{MAP} Data input. Neither the deinterleaver 52 nor the interleaver 62 is needed in the robust VSB receiver 130 allowing for lower overall feedback delay to the phase tracker and/or equalizer. The outer decoded data can be used, for example, by an enhanced slice predictor 142 to generate feedback to the phase tracker and/or equalizer. If desired, the feedback may be gated, or the step size of the equalizer gradient algorithm adjusted proportionally to the reliability of the decoded data.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 36 as follows:

--Let it be assumed that $S = S_{1/4} + S_{1/2} + S_{3/4}$. Because $312/8 = 39$, 0-39 groups of eight segments can be mapped as robust VSB data or 8 VSB data (ATSC data). Therefore, each S_c may have a value of 0 . . . 39, as long as their sum S is ≤ 39 .--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 41 as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 5,923,711, entitled "Slice Predictor for a Signal Receiver," discloses an ATSC 8 VSB receiver which utilizes a slice predictor in order to provide more reliable feedback to the phase tracker or adaptive equalizer. This feedback can be made even more reliable by a an enhanced slice predictor system 300 shown in Figure 19. The enhanced slice predictor system 300 has an inner decoder 302 and an outer decoder 304 which operate similarly to the inner decoders and outer decoders described above.